



October 19, 2016

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, October 18, 2016, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), spoke via telephone with Amy Bender, legal advisor to Commissioner Michael O’Rielly, regarding matters in the above-referenced proceeding.

Specifically, consistent with prior advocacy, NTCA emphasized the need for prompt action immediately after November 1, 2016 with respect to the sorting of model elections and resolution of any budget concerns that may arise should such elections result in “oversubscription” for the model. *See Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Senior Vice President, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”), WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed July 28, 2016); Petition for Reconsideration and/or Clarification of NTCA, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed May 25, 2016) (“NTCA Petition”), at 12-14. NTCA continues to urge use of additional on-hand Connect America funds to facilitate and most effectively enable model elections in the first instance, and observed that, in the absence of such support, failure to achieve quick and carefully calibrated resolution of any budget concerns that arise out of model oversubscription could have a significant punitive impact on non-model mechanisms – and, most importantly, upon consumer rates for standalone broadband – contrary to the stated goals of reform. *See* NTCA Petition, at 2-9; *see also Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Senior Vice President, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed May 12, 2016) (identifying several options for addressing budget implications of model elections).

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Romano
Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President –
Industry Affairs & Business Development

cc: Amy Bender